LUCE - MACKINAC - ALGER - SCHOOLCRAFT
DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OFFICES

LUCE COUNTY & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
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Newberry, MI 49868
(906) 293-5107

MACKINAC COUNTY
117 Ferry Lane
St. Ignace, MI 49781
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ALGER COUNTY
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MICHIGAN DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH
JUL 26 1990
CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SECTION

REPLY TO:
LUCE COUNTY
P.O. Box 398
Newberry, MI 49868
(906) 293-5107

July 23, 1990

Mr. John Beasley
Chief of Program Development Sec.
Michigan Dept. of Public Health
3423 North Logan, P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Michigan's ASSIST Project

Dear Mr. Beasley:

As Director of the Chippewa County Health Department and the Luce Mackinac Alger Schoolcraft District Health Department, I strongly support the U.P. as an intervention site for the Michigan's ASSIST Project. The Chippewa County Health Department and the Luce Mackinac Alger Schoolcraft District Health Department will participate in the U.P. coordinating coalition. The two health departments in the Eastern Upper Peninsula have targeted youth and women of child bearing age for reduction of tobacco utilization.

Tobacco coalitions have been established in Alger and Chippewa Counties. Both coalitions are working on smoke free schools, the hazards of tobacco use for the general community and the adoption of tobacco vending machine regulations to reduce access of tobacco products to youth. I plan to expand tobacco coalitions into Luce, Mackinac and Schoolcraft Counties as staff are identified to support each county coalition. The health department staff working with the Chippewa and Alger County tobacco coalitions are also members of a tobacco coordinating committee which includes Marquette County in the Upper Peninsula. The tobacco coordinating committee provides an opportunity for staff to exchange ideas and to work collectively in the reduction of tobacco use.

Local health departments in the Upper Peninsula have a long history of working together and providing public health services. Local health departments in the Upper Peninsula are currently providing services to diabetics through a contract with the Wester U.P. District Health Department. U. P. environmental health directors and nursing directors meet regularly to share information, review programmatic criteria and communicate with MDPH on specific policy decisions. The U.P. environmental health and nursing directors also establish programs for staff in their respective disciplines on a regular basis. The local health

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departments in the Upper Peninsula also hold an annual U.P. Public Health Conference in which all disciplines are brought together to share information, meet with staff from the Michigan Department of Public Health, and receive specific information from experts in the field in order to strengthen our capabilities in providing timely services. Five of the six Upper Peninsula health departments have the same computer system. A regional computer group has been established which allows a variety of talents in the Upper Peninsula to be of assistance each other in the development of a comprehensive data management system. There is a continual sharing of information between the health officers and throughout the staff at the local health department level in the Upper Peninsula. I believe the record of cooperation and coordination between the Upper Peninsula local health departments speaks highly of our ability to work together.

The variety of categorical programs offered by the Chippewa County Health Department and Luce Mackinac Alger Schoolcraft District Health Department I believe speaks highly of our close working relationship with the Michigan Department of Public Health. The local health departments in the Eastern Upper Peninsula are dedicated to meeting the health needs of our communities. I believe the level of support for the Michigan Department of Public Health demonstrates their confidence in our ability to provide quality services. We have developed a relationship with the Director of the Michigan Department of Public Health and with the individual bureau staff throughout the agency. Several of the staff in these two departments serve on state wide committees that develop public health policies for the State of Michigan. We look forward in working with a state wide tobacco coalition to develop intervention programs in our local communities state wide for reducing tobacco utilization.

Both of these departments currently are in the development stages of a regulation to ban the sale of tobacco products to children, as a local ordinance, and regulation to restrict vending machine locations. We have worked collaboratively with the Marquette County Health Department in this process, and with sister health departments in Northern Lower Michigan. Additional effort to reduce the prevalence of tobacco related health problems are totally consistent with the agency's primary obligation to reduce the incidence of preventable premature mortality.

Both of these departments have a many year track record of active involvement in smoking morbidity and mortality reduction. Staff members in each agency have been trained to conduct smoking cessation programs, through several different organizations. We currently have staff who conduct the American Lung Association Freedom From Smoking Intervention, on a fee for service basis. Staff members have been trained in teenage smoking cessation programs. Agency

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staff members have participated in the Seventh Day Adventist smoking efforts, and we have explored other kinds of programs. Agency staff have served on a number of task forces and at least one governor's commission on tobacco morbidity reduction practices. I assure you that we will continue to invest as much energy as we can afford addressing this major preventable public health problem.

I am committed as Health Officer for the Eastern Upper Peninsula Health Department to reduce tobacco consumption to community intervention programs. I believe the ASSIST Program offers an excellent opportunity in making in-roads in tobacco reduction of the citizens living in the Eastern Upper Peninsula as well as the total U.P. I look forward in working with my fellow health officers in achieving that end.

Sincerely,

James Terrian, M.D.

James Terrian, M.D.
Director

JT/gm

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